

Message Text

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 14147 141012Z

15

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

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R 121530Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7256

INFO USINT BAGHDAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN, PINT, IZ, LE

SUBJ: DEATH OF ASSYRIAN PATRIARCH

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT ASSYRIAN PATRIARCH MAR SHAMOUN, AMCIT WHO HAS RESIDED IN US ABOUT 40 YEARS, WAS MURDERED IN SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA A FEW DAYS AGO. ASSYRIAN BISHOP BEIRUT HAS LITTLE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, BUT WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES (WCC) REPRESENTATIVE BEIRUT TELLS US HE HAD HEARD THAT PATRIARCH WAS VICTIM OF ASSYRIAN RESIDENT OF CANADA WHO RESENTED PATRIARCH'S UNWILLINGNESS TO SUPPORT CAMPAING FOR RETURN OF ASSYRIAN EMIGRANTS TO IRAQ.

2. EMBASSY HAS SEEN NO LOCAL PRESS REPORTS ON PATRIARCH'S DEATH. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION ON CIRCUMSTANCES DEPARTMENT COULD PROVIDE.

3. FYI: THERE IS SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER IRAQI ASSYRIAN APPLICANTS FOR US REFUGEE STATUS PROCESSED THROUGH WCC OFFICE BEIRUT. EMBASSY IS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED LEARN WHETHER DEATH OF PATRIARCH WAS IN FACT CONNECTED IN ANY WAY TO CONTROVERSY WITHIN ASSYRIAN COMMUNITY OVER EMIGRATION.
GODLEY

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